

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A circuit interrupting device comprising:

a housing;

a phase conductive path disposed at least partially within said housing between a  
5 line side and a load side, said phase conductive path terminating at a first connection  
capable of being electrically connected to a source of electricity, a second connection  
capable of conducting electricity to at least one load and a third connection capable of  
conducting electricity to at least one user accessible load;

a circuit interrupting portion disposed within said housing and configured to  
10 cause electrical discontinuity in said phase conductive path between said line side and  
said load side upon the occurrence of a predetermined condition; and

a reset portion disposed at least partially within said housing and configured to  
reestablish electrical continuity in said phase conductive path.

15 2. A circuit interrupting device comprising:

a housing;

a phase conductive path and a neutral conductive path each disposed at least  
partially within said housing between a line side and a load side, said phase conductive  
path terminating at a first connection capable of being electrically connected to a source  
20 of electricity, a second connection capable of conducting electricity to at least one load  
and a third connection capable of conducting electricity to at least one user accessible  
load, and said neutral conductive path terminating at a first connection capable of being

electrically connected to a source of electricity, a second connection capable of providing a neutral connection to said at least one load and a third connection capable of providing a neutral connection to said at least one user accessible load;

5 a circuit interrupting portion disposed within said housing and configured to cause electrical discontinuity in said phase and neutral conductive paths between said line side and said load side upon the occurrence of a predetermined condition; and

a reset portion disposed at least partially within said housing and configured to reestablish electrical continuity in said phase and neutral conductive paths; and

10 said circuit interrupting device further comprising a reset lockout portion that prevents reestablishing electrical continuity in said phase and neutral conductive paths if said circuit interrupting portion is non-operational, if an open neutral condition exists or if a reverse wiring condition exists.

3. A method for distributing a circuit interrupting device having a reset  
15 lock out and reverse wiring protection comprising:

manufacturing said circuit interrupting device in a reset lock out state; and placing the circuit interrupting device into the stream of commerce.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:  
20 testing the reset lock out before placing the circuit interrupting device into the stream of commerce.

5. A method for distributing a circuit interrupting device having a reset lock out, manual trip and reverse wiring protection comprising:
- manufacturing said circuit interrupting device;
  - activating said manual trip in order to set the circuit interrupting device in a
- 5 reset lock out state; and
- placing the circuit interrupting device into the stream of commerce.